

Submitter: Ericka Rodriguez

On Behalf Of:

Committee: Senate Committee On Natural Resources and  
Wildfire

Measure, Appointment or Topic: HB3932

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB 3932, which would protect beavers in critical watersheds and public lands. As a resident of Bend, Oregon, I understand the vital role beavers play in our ecosystem and water management systems.

Beavers are nature's engineers and their presence is crucial for:

Creating and maintaining wetlands

Improving water quality and quantity

Supporting biodiversity

Providing natural flood control

Creating resilience against drought and climate change

Reducing wildfire risk through maintaining wet areas

This bill represents a balanced approach to beaver conservation while still allowing for necessary management in specific situations. The 200-foot buffer zone from ordinary high water marks is a reasonable measure that will help protect these important ecosystem engineers while they perform their vital environmental services.

In Central Oregon, where water scarcity is an increasing concern, beaver-created wetlands help store water during dry periods and maintain stream flows during drought conditions. Their dams slow water flow, reduce erosion, and create complex habitats that benefit numerous species including fish, amphibians, and birds.

Supporting HB 3932 aligns with Oregon's commitment to environmental stewardship and sustainable water management practices. This legislation would help ensure that beavers can continue their essential ecosystem services in our watersheds.

I urge the committee to support HB 3932 and help protect these keystone species that play such a crucial role in maintaining healthy Oregon watersheds.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
Ericka Rodriguez  
Bend, Oregon